

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-12 /084 W
-----125369 221439Z /45

R 221351Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4224
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 21148

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, BQG
SUBJECT: REPLIES TO SOVIET PROTESTS ON LAENDER
MINISTER-PRESIDENTS MEETING IN BERLIN
AND BAUM STATEMENT

REFS: (A) STATE 280196; (B) BONN 18339;
(C) STATE 282548; (D) BONN 19462
(E) BONN 20577

1. AT DECEMBER 20 BONN GROUP MEETING, THE UK REP SAID
THAT LONDON HAD APPROVED THE REPLY TO THE SOVIETS
REGARDING THE MINISTER-PRESIDENTS PROTEST (REF B). THE
FRENCH AND FRG HAD PREVIOUSLY APPROVED IT.
. LONDON SUGGESTED INSERTING THE WORDS "TO
PERFORM" AFTER THE WORD "AUTHORIZED" IN PARAGRAPH 3 IN
ORDER TO MAKE THE SENTENCE GRAMMATICALLY CORRECT. THIS
WAS AGREED. IT WAS ALSO AGREED AD REF TO DELIVER BOTH
SUBJECT REPLIES AT SAME TIME.

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2. THE UK REP ALSO SAID THAT LONDON WANTED A CHANGE IN
THE REPLY TO THE SOVIETS ON THE BAUM STATEMENT (REF D).
IN LONDON'S VIEW, THE PHRASE "THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY
THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT ARE GROUNDLESS" AT THE END OF THE
REPLY WOULD ONLY INVITE THE SOVIETS TO ARGUE THE GROUNDS.
IN ORDER TO END THE MATTER, LONDON WOULD LIKE TO

SUBSTITUTE THE WORDS "THERE IS NOTHING IN THIS CONNECTION THAT NEEDS DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT AND THE (BLANK) GOVERNMENT."

3. THE FRG REP (VON BRAUNMUEHL) ARGUED STRONGLY AGAINST THE CHANGE, SAYING THAT THE VIEW OF THE FRG ON THE FRG/BERLIN RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN EXPRESSED SO CLEARLY IN THE RECENT PAST THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD BE ABLE TO SAY THAT THE CONCERNS ARE GROUNDLESS. HE THEN BEGAN EXPANDING A MINOR FRG CHANGE MENTIONING THE VON DOHNANYI STATEMENT (REF E), WHICH THE BONN GROUP HAD PREVIOUSLY AGREED AND WHICH IS SET OUT BELOW, INTO A FULLER EXPOSITION. THE US REP SAID THAT LONDON'S CHANGE AND VON BRAUNMUEHL'S EXPANDED CHANGE WOULD PRESUMABLY DELAY THE REPLY EVEN FURTHER WHILE CAPITALS CONSIDERED THEM AND PERHAPS PROPOSED NEW CHANGES IN RESPONSE TO THESE. SINCE EYERS HAS RECEIVED HIS REQUEST FOR A CHANGE BY TELEPHONE, THE US REP ASKED WHETHER EYERS MIGHT SEEK TO PERSUADE LONDON NOT TO INSIST ON THAT CHANGE IF VON BRAUNMUEHL DID NOT INSIST ON HIS. EYERS AGREED TO TRY AND ON DECEMBER 21 INFORMED US THAT LONDON HAD WITHDRAWN ITS PROPOSAL FOR A CHANGE.

4. THE CHANGE SUGGESTED BY VON BRAUNMUEHL, WHICH WE ASSUME POSES NO PROBLEM FOR THE DEPARTMENT, IS TO
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INCLUDE AN ADDITION AT THE END OF PARAGRAPH C IN REF D AS FOLLOWS: "AND OF THE REPLY MADE BY MINISTER OF STATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 21148

VON DOHNANYI ON NOVEMBER 25, 1977 IN RESPONSE TO A
QUESTION FROM A MEMBER OF THE BUNDESTAG."

5. WITH RESPECT TO THE TIMING OF THE DELIVERY OF THE
REPLIES TO THE BAUM AND MINISTER-PRESIDENTS PROTESTS,
EYERS SUGGESTS (APPARENTLY SINCE THE BRITISH ARE
ACCUSTOMED TO LONG HOLIDAYS OVER CHRISTMAS AND NEW
YEAR) THAT THE REPLY BE GIVEN ON JANUARY 9 OR LATER THAT
WEEK. EYERS ALSO SAYS THAT LONDON WOULD LIKE TO
DELIVER THE REPLY AT THE SAME LEVEL AT WHICH IT WAS
DELIVERED (OR LOWER). IN LONDON, IT WAS DELIVERED TO
SUTHERLAND, THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
IN THE FCO, WHO IS BELOW HIBBERT. WE SEE NO NEED TO
ESCALATE THE LEVEL AT WHICH THE REPLY IS DELIVERED
BUT BELIEVE THAT IT SHOULD BE DONE IN THE DEPARTMENT
AT THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OR DEPUTY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY LEVEL.
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ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE INFORM WHETHER JANUARY 9 IS
CONVENIENT TO DELIVER REPLIES (OR IF NOT, ALTERNATIVE
DATES) AND WHO WILL DELIVER THEM.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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